

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



BRIAN L. CUMMINGS
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

August 31, 2011

BOARD OF FIRE COMMISSIONERS
FILE NO. 11-131

TO: Board of Fire Commissioners

FROM: Brian L. Cummings, Interim Fire Chief

SUBJECT: **IN-KIND DONATION FOR TWO CONTROLLED IMPACT RESCUE TOOLS (CIRT)**

FINAL ACTION:	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved	<input type="checkbox"/> Approved w/Corrections	<input type="checkbox"/> Withdrawn
	<input type="checkbox"/> Denied	<input type="checkbox"/> Received & Filed	<input type="checkbox"/> Other

Recommendation: That the Board:

1. Accept a donation from the Department of Homeland Security for two (2) Controlled Impact Rescue Tools (CIRT) for the members of the Urban Search and Rescue (USAR) Unit.
2. Instruct the Commission Executive Assistant I to forward this report for necessary action to the Mayor's Office in accordance with Executive Directive No. 3 and the City Council in accordance with the Los Angeles Administrative Code Article 12.

Summary: The Department of Homeland Security would like to donate the following items to the LAFD USAR Unit:

2- Controlled Impact Rescue Tools
2- Spare Impactor Assemblies
400- Cartridges

Total: \$ 32,000.00

Fiscal Impact: There is no fiscal impact to the Department's budget in the acceptance of this donation. The USAR Unit, utilizing FEMA equipment and training grants, will be responsible for any maintenance, repair or replacement of these donated items.

Conclusion: The LAFD benefits tremendously from gracious donations such as that received from Department of Homeland Security. This support provides the Fire Department with additional resources to better serve the community. The Community Liaison Office would like to acknowledge this generous donation from the Department of Homeland Security.

Board report prepared by the Community Liaison Office.

Attachment

LOS ANGELES FIRE DEPARTMENT



COMMUNITY LIAISON OFFICE

2011 AUG 25 AM 7:04

BRIAN CUMMINGS
INTERIM FIRE CHIEF

#33

August 16, 2011

TO: Glenn Miyagishima, Community Liaison Office
THROUGH CHANNELS

FROM: Steve M. Hissong, Captain II
Urban Search and Rescue Unit

SUBJECT: IN-KIND DONATION OF TWO CONTROLLED IMPACT RESCUE TOOLS
(CIRT) TO THE CA-TF1 URBAN SEARCH AND RESCUE TEAM

SUMMARY

The Los Angeles Fire Department Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Unit has been approached to assist the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in their research and development of a new rescue tool designed for rapid breaching of reinforced concrete.

Controlled Impact Rescue Tool (CIRT) technology has identified the CA-TF1 as one of the leaders in search and rescue and would like to give two CIRT tools offered by the Department of Homeland Security at a value of \$16,000 each to the Los Angeles Fire Department CA-TF1 at no cost to our Department. The purpose of this gift is to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of their product.

These tools will offer our Department the opportunity to continue to be the leader in US&R technology as a Local, State and Federal Responder in Urban Search and Rescue.

RECOMMENDATION

It is respectfully requested that the LAFD US&R Unit be granted acceptance of these two CIRT tools to evaluate at no cost to our Department.

COMPANY/STATION/UNIT COMMANDER	DATE	EMS BATTALION CAPTAIN	DATE	BATTALION COMMANDER	DATE	DIVISION COMMANDER	DATE
				Jack X. W. [Signature]		T.V. Manning [Signature]	8/17/11
BUREAU COMMANDER	DATE	EMERGENCY OPERATIONS COMMANDER	DATE	ADMINISTRATIVE OPERATIONS COMMANDER	DATE		
[Signature]	8/22/11	A.O. [Signature]	8-23-11				

FINDINGS

The Los Angeles Fire Department Urban Search and Rescue (US&R) Unit has been approached to assist the Science and Technology (S&T) Directorate in the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) in their research and development of a new rescue tool designed for rapid breaching of reinforced concrete.

The Department of Homeland Security has purchased (12) twelve Controlled Impact Rescue Tools (CIRT) and has identified CA-TF1 as one of the leaders in search and rescue operations and would like to give two CIRT tools manufactured by Raytheon at a value of \$16,000 each to the Los Angeles Fire Department CA-TF1 at no cost to our Department. Six Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) National Task Forces have been identified to participate in this evaluation program to evaluate the effectiveness and efficiency of this product. Each of these Task Forces, CA-TF1, WA-TF1, VA-TF1, VA-TF2, OH-TF1, and MO-TF1, were donated two CIRT tools each. This evaluation will allow DHS to decide if the CIRT tool should be added as a required inventory tool and part of the equipment cache for all the twenty-eight FEMA Task Forces.

These tools will offer our Department the opportunity to continue to be the leader in US&R technology as a Local, State and Federal Responder in Urban Search and Rescue.

<u>QUANTITY</u>	<u>ITEMS</u>	<u>COST</u>
2 -	Controlled Impact Rescue Tools	
2 -	Spare Impactor Assemblies	
400 -	Cartridges	
TOTAL:		\$32, 000

TRAINING

Over the past three years, DHS S&T has developed the CIRT technology with advantages over current breaching methods as it is fast, portable, self contained and does not require hoses, electric cords or any support equipment to operate. The CIRT is a powder-actuated tool used to breach reinforced concrete walls. It utilizes powder cartridges to drive an impacting head onto the surface to be breached. The CIRT tool allows a fast portable method of breaching with minimal training needed (see attached).

FEMA is currently including the powder-actuated tool operations in the Structure Collapse Technician course. This course is required for our members of the CA-TF1 to become qualified in the position of a Rescue Specialist. There are 72 members on our 240 person CA-TF1 team that are required to be trained at this level of competency in Technical Rescues in accordance to the National Fire Protection Association (NFPA) 1670: Standard on Operations and Training for Technical Search and Rescue Incidents.

SAFETY

The CIRT tool provides every aspect of Safety in the operation including low impact powder cartridges specific for the tool. Understanding the danger inherent with powder cartridges S&T Directorate and the DHS have fulfilled all safety requirements to protect our members during technical rescue operations.

MAINTENANCE

The CIRT tool requires minimal maintenance and would require no LAFD support to maintain the Controlled Impact Rescue Tool. The FEMA equipment and training grants would support the tool and operational costs required for the life of the tool.

INVENTORY

The two CIRT tools will be located at Fire Station 88 for the purposes of evaluating their effectiveness and efficiency of the product. One CIRT tool will be located on UR 88 to be used by the experienced members on technical rescues. The other CIRT tool will be part of the training cache to be used during training exercises and the Structural Collapse Technician course. This will provide a controlled environment to be proceeded by qualified instructional methods prior to use.

CONCLUSION

By accepting the CIRT tool will allow the LAFD US&R and CA TF1 members to continue training in innovative methods to save lives in concert with current technology. The LAFD US&R Unit and CA TF1 are leaders as a Local, State and Federal Responder to search and rescue operations and innovative tools such as the CIRT tool will allow us to continue to explore new methods of breaking and breaching concrete to save lives during these operations in times of natural or man-made disasters.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Steve M. Hissong', is written over a horizontal line.

Steve M. Hissong, Unit Commander
Urban Search and Rescue Unit